

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

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Info

FROM: BERLIN

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 426, OCTOBER 28, 1 P.M.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 426; BONN 374; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON
129, PARIS 118, MOSCOW 142, POLAD USAREUR 45.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, CINCEUR, THURSTON AND FINN.

REF: OURTEL 420 TO SECSTATE, 369 TO BONN.

IN REGULAR MONTHLY COMMANDANTS' MEETING WITH GOV MAYOR THIS AFTERNOON, BRITISH CHAIRMAN RAISED QUESTION INTENSIVE PRESS TREATMENT OF FLAG ISSUE WHICH CAUSING CONCERN TO COMMANDANTS (SEE BERLIN'S 373 TO BONN, 425 DEPT). CHAIRMAN SAID HE FAVORED PLAYING DOWN ENTIRE ISSUE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID PUTTING EASTERN SIDE IN POSITION OF LOSING FACE IF FLAGS NOT HOISTED. BRANDT SAID HE FULLY AGREED AND REGRETTED STORIES WHICH APPEARED IN TODAY'S PRESS. HE HAD ASKED MEMBERS OF SENAT TO USE UTMOST DISCRETION BUT STATED HE BELIEVED THERE WAS ALSO NEED FOR CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND CONFERENCE WITH EDITORS-IN-CHIEF TO URGE PLAY DOWN STORIES ON PREPARATIONS. IN HIS ABSENCE (HE LEAVING FOR BRUSSELS TODAY) AMREHN WILL MEET WITH EDITORS.

BRANDT EXPRESSED STRONG APPRECIATION FOR COMMANDANTS' POSITION ON FLAG ISSUE AS REFLECTED IN ALLIED INSTRUCTION TO POLICE PRES. BRANDT THEN ASKED (1) WHETHER ALLIED WOULD MAKE ANOTHER DEMARCHE TO SOVIET COMMANDANT; (2) WHETHER ALLIED HAD CONSIDERED QUESTION OF PRESENCE MILITARY POLICE PATROLS DURING FLAG-REMOVAL OPERATION. HE FELT SUCH EVIDENCE ALLIED-WEST BERLIN COOPERATION DESIRABLE EVEN IF FLAGS REMOVED WITHOUT INCIDENT.

BRITISH CHAIRMAN REPLIED THAT APPROACH TO SOV COMMANDANT PLANNED NOV 2; TEXT OF MESSAGE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY ALLIED GOVTS; TO HAVE MAXIMUM DETERRENT EFFECT NO PUBLICITY PLANNED;

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-2- 426, OCTOBER 28, 7 P.M. FROM BERLIN

RE (2). ALLIES FULLY CONSCIOUS NEED GIVING SOME VISIBLE INDICATION
POLICE ACTION HAS THEIR FULL SUPPORT AND BACKING BUT NO DECISION
YET MADE ON HOW THIS TO BE DONE PENDING SUBMISSION BERLIN
POLICE PLAN.

LIGHTNER.

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